

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A catheter having a polymeric reinforcing member at a junction between shaft sections such as a rapid exchange catheter junction. The polymeric reinforcing member is around or within the tubular member defining the inflation lumen or the tubular member defining the guidewire lumen at the rapid exchange junction to prevent or inhibit damage to the tubular members defining the inflation lumen and/or guidewire lumen during assembly or use of a balloon catheter. In one embodiment, the polymeric reinforcing member is formed of a first polymeric material having a glass transition temperature greater than a glass transition temperature of a second polymeric material forming the distal portion of the proximal tubular member or the proximal portion of the inner tubular member. The first polymeric material forming the polymeric reinforcing member is preferably a high temperature, high modulus material, such as polyimide, and most preferably a thermoset polyimide.

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